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REPORT

OF THE

Oregon Institute for the Blind,

SALEM, OREGON.

TENTH REGULAR SESSION—1878.



SALEM, OREGON:
MART V. BROWN, STATE PRINTER.
1878.

REPORT
OF THE
OREGON
Institute for the Blind.

To the Honorable

State Board of Education

of Oregon:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor herewith to present to you the report of "The Oregon Institute for the Blind," from March 5th, 1877, to May 10th, 1878.

I shall confine myself to the educational interests of the institution, as only these have been under my charge.

During this period the following pupils have been in attendance.

MALES.

David Brewer,
Gilbert McGinn,
Frank Tomlinson,

William Whitney,
John Keeny,
Bennie Whiteaker.

FEMALES.

Amy Walling,
Hattie McFadden,
Josie Watkins.

Blanche Savage,
Rose Morris,

Up to the time at which I took charge of the institu-

tion, all kinds of needle and fancy work had been almost wholly neglected. To this I have devoted from three to four hours each week, deeming it essential that each pupil should be taught to do such work.

This I find to be in keeping with the oldest and most successful institutions in the country. It will be observed that the male pupils have done but little work. This must be regretted, as it is important they should be taught that they may be self-supporting. For this the pupils are not to blame, as the appliances necessary have not been furnished. Nor is the State Board of Education to be considered negligent in this matter, having done all in their power with the funds furnished.

Permit me to say these pupils could be taught broom and shoe-making, if funds could be furnished, and that so successfully that each could earn a comfortable living.

The following list will show what each pupil has done :

MISS ROSE MORRIS.

Tidies, crochet.....	14
Lace, crochet.....	6 yds.
Bead pin cushion.....	1
Bead watch pocket.....	1
Card receiver.....	1
Braided cushion.....	1
Toilet mats	3 sets.
Infants' sacks, crochet.....	3
Rug, scrap embroidery.....	1

MISS AMY WALLING.

Tidies, crochet.....	10
Bead pin cushion.....	3
Bead pin bobbins.....	6
Bead watch pockets.....	4
Bead comb case.....	1
Bead medal books.....	6
Braided pin cushions.....	2
Card receiver.....	2

Jewel case.....	1
Card basket.....	1
Tidy, Holbein work.....	1
Patch work, crib quilt	1

MISS BLANCHE SAVAGE.

Tidies, crochet.....	5
Bead pin cushions	4
Bead pin bobbins.....	2
Bead watch pockets.....	2
Bead comb case.....	1
Bead needle books.....	3
Card receiver.....	1
Jewel case.....	1
Tidy, Holbein.....	1
Lamp mat.....	1

MISS HATTIE M'FADDEN.

Tidies, crochet.....	5
Bead pin cushion.....	2
Bead pin bobbins.....	2
Bead comb case.....	1
Bead needle books.....	3
Bead necklace.....	1
Card receiver, worsted.....	2
Tidy, Holbein work	1
Lamp mat, worsted	1

GILBERT M'GINN.

Socks.....	1 pair.
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The material for this work was furnished by the Board, and the pupils permitted to sell it and appropriate the money to their own use.

I am glad to report they found ready sale, and in almost every instance, used the proceeds to purchase new material for more work.

At the "State Fair" a number of their articles were placed on exhibition, and it is no exaggeration to say, they compared favorably with like work done by those who can see. The managers awarded each pupil a prize in money.

Permit me to ask that the sum of \$40 be appropriated by the Board to the young ladies' handicraft department for the coming year. And I would further suggest that this sum be placed in the hands of the principal, and that the pupils be permitted to sell their work and appropriate the proceeds to their own use.

This not only encourages them but enables them to procure money which they need.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT.

In this department we have one piano, and must ask that we be furnished an organ.

Amy Walling, Blanche Savage, Rose Morris, Josie Watkinds and Gilbert McGinn, have taken lessons on the piano, and I must say their advancement has been most satisfactory to me. Some of the young ladies are considered good pianists; Miss Walling is quite above the average, and with another year's training will make a competent teacher for this department. She also performs quite well on the guitar.

David Brewer, Gilbert McGinn, William Whitney and John Keeney, perform quite well on the violin.

I have encouraged this, not that it is profitable as a means of making a living, but a pleasant way to sometimes gladden a life of darkness: by this means they always have music at hand when they wish to brighten one of their many sad, dark hours with a merry dance.

Permit me to recommend that a diploma be given to each pupil who shall complete the full musical course.

It might be well, and indeed is quite necessary, to employ an efficient teacher in this department, if the funds will permit. By all means let her be a good vocalist.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

During the year, the following studies have been completed:

Mental Arithmetic, First and Second Geography, English Grammar, First Lessons in Composition, First Lessons in Botany, Physiology, Astronomy and Natural Philosophy.

Each pupil can read either the Dotted, Moon, Philadelphia or Line Systems. All write either the Dotted System or common penmanship. Lead pencils are used instead of pen and ink. Any pupil can thus write a plain, intelligible hand.

After several years' experience as a teacher of the brightest children and young ladies of our city, I am prepared to say I have found no brighter minds than are in this institution. With proper care, no pupils acquire knowledge more readily or retain it better. With labor and care, as rich results can be produced in this school as any with which I have been connected; and every day's experience convinces me more and more that the Legislature will never regret the money it has expended in the interest of this unfortunate class of our citizens. This class will increase with population, and so must the advantages of this institution.

So far, neither the State Board of Education nor the Legislature have adopted a regular course of study. This has been regulated by the Principal. In the past it may not have been essential, but the present and future demand it.

Each year will increase the number of pupils, so this is not a temporary institution to meet present necessity, but

one that must last as long as Oregon itself, or there remains a blind child to need a helping hand.

Perhaps my relation to the school is such as to justify me in recommending a certain course. Both experience and care are necessary in this matter, and I have made the very best selection I could.

COURSE OF STUDY.

First Year.—Different systems for the blind.

SPELLING AND READING.

Second Year.—Spelling, Reading, Writing and Mental Arithmetic.

Third Year.—The above with Geography, History, Grammar, Composition and Physiology.

Fourth Year.—Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Elementary Algebra, Geology and Botany.

Fifth Year.—Rhetoric, Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy.

Besides this course, the teacher should read about an hour each day from the best standard authors, and the pupils be required to pass an examination on the same before the Board of Education quarterly.

On the completion of this course to the satisfaction of the Board of Education, as a committee of examination, let the pupil receive a diploma with the degree of M. E. L.

It will be noticed that this course requires five years for its completion, and so I would suggest that it be provided that a student can graduate at any time on its completion.

No particular text book has been mentioned in this course. It would be best to use such books as the Princi-

pal and Board of Education may deem best adapted to the use of the blind.

Permit me to make one more request: The school is much in need of books, maps and other appliances essential to the success of a school of this character; also an organ for the *music department*. Two hundred and fifty dollars would meet all these wants, and I request that this amount be set apart for these purposes.

Permit me to return thanks to the Board of Education for what they have done during the past year, and their promptness to do the best they could to meet the wants of the school.

Respectfully,

MRS. JENNIE E. DAWNE,
Principal.